

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /076 W

----- 045163

R 230540Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7866

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4194

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, BG

SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNMENT GROWS MORE ACTIVE

1. THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT KHONDAKAR MUSHTAQUE AHMED DISPLAYED

A SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF INCREASED ACTIVITY ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST

22,

WHEN IT TOOK THREE ACTIONS WHICH SHOULD ENHANCE ITS STANDING WITH

BANGALEES.

2. THE FIRST OF THESE WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY STATE MINISTER FOR  
INFORMATION THAHERUDDIN THAKUR THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS RETURNING  
THE TWO BANGLA DAILIES ITTEFAQ AND SANGBAD TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS.

ITTEFAQ, FORMERLY EDITED BY MANJU HOSSAIN, WAS TAKEN OVER BY

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SHEIKH MUJIB'S GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 17. SANGBAD, WHOSE PROPRIETOR

WAS AHMEDUL KABIR, LONG ASSOCIATED WITH THE NAP/MUZAFFAR, WAS CLOSED BY THE BDG AT THE SAME TIME (AS WERE MANY OTHER PAPERS). THE BDG ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT EDITORSHIP OF THE BANGLADESH TIMES, WHICH SHEIKH MONI CONTINUED TO EDIT EVEN AFTER ITS NATIONALIZATION IN JUNE, WILL NOW BE RUN BY ENAYATULLAH KHAN. THE NEW EDITOR, WHOSE APPOINTMENT IS FILLED WITH IRONY, WAS THE EDITOR OF THE VERY FREQUENTLY ANTI-MOSCOW, ANTI-INDIAN AND ANTI-AMERICAN LEFTIST WEEKLY HOLIDAY WHEN IT WAS SHUTTERED AND HE WAS JAILED FOR PRE-JUDICIAL ACTS BY MUJIB IN JUNE (BUT RELEASED IN JULY).

3. A SECOND ACTION WHICH WILL RESTORE TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES A DEEPLY NEEDED SENSE OF PREDICTABILITY AND SECURITY WAS THE REPEAL OF PRESIDENT ORDER NO. 9 UNDER WHICH GOVERNMENT SERVANTS COULD BE DISMISSED WITHOUT CAUSE OR APPEAL. IN FORCE SINCE 1972, PO NO. 9 HAS BEEN A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE DEMORALIZATION OF BANGLADESH'S CIVIL SERVICE.

4. THE THIRD ACTION WAS THE PROMULGATION OF MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS (MLRS) WHICH ARE INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FIRM INTENTION TO TAKE VIGOROUS ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION. THE MLRS ESTABLISH TWO CLASSES OF TRIBUNALS -- SPECIAL MARTIAL LAW COURTS AND SUMMARY MARTIAL LAW COURTS -- TO DEAL WITH TWO CLASSES OF OFFENSES. THE FIRST, INTENDED TO PROMOTE INTERNAL SECURITY, DEALS WITH THE UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES, AND MAKES THEM PUNISHABLE BY DEATH, TRANSPORTATION (I.E., 14 YEARS IMPRISONMENT) OR TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

5. IT IS THE SECOND OFFENSE UNDER THE MLRS WHICH IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ESTABLISH THE NEW GOVERNMENT BONA FIDES. IT GIVES THE MARTIAL LAW COURTS JURISDICTION OVER ACTS OF CORRUPTION BY (I) THE VICE PRESIDENT, (II) MINISTERS, (III) STATE MINISTERS, (IV) DEPUTY MINISTER, (V) THE SPEAKER AND DEPTY SPEAKERS OF THE JATIYO SANGSAD, (VI) MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, (VII) DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER CONTROLLING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AUTHORITIES OR CORPORATION, (VIII) LABOR AND TRADE UNION LEADERS, AND (IX) PUBLIC SERVANTS. CORRUPTION IS DEFINED AS ABUSE OF POSITION IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE PECUNIARY ADVANTAGE OR MOVEABLE OR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY, AND COVERS ACTS BEFORE AND AFTER THE PROMULGATION OF THE MLRS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 23 AUG 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW GOVERNMENT GROWS MORE ACTIVE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, PINS, BG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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